



September 10, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem
Office of the Attorney General
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 125
Bismarck, ND 58505-0040
ndag@nd.gov

RE: Notice of Security Incident Regarding Brown University

Dear Attorney General Stenehjem:

I write to inform you of a recent security breach that impacted Brown University (Brown). Brown contracts with Blackbaud, a leading software provider for higher education and non-profits, to support alumni and donor engagement and development activities. Blackbaud recently experienced a ransomware attack and informed Brown that it was one of many clients impacted by the incident that affected some of Blackbaud's managed services.

The attached notice, which the University has sent to the seventeen North Dakota residents for whom date of birth information was impacted by this incident, provides information on the reported breach.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at eileen_goldgeier@brown.edu.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Goldgeier".

Eileen Goldgeier
Vice President and General Counsel



Brown University contracts with Blackbaud, a leading software provider for higher education and non-profits to support alumni and donor engagement and development activities. Blackbaud recently experienced a ransomware attack and informed us on July 16th that Brown was one of many clients impacted by the incident affecting some of Blackbaud's managed services.

Brown University takes the protection and proper use of your information very seriously. Since being notified, we have been working closely with Blackbaud to understand exactly what was included in the data that was stolen. We are now contacting you, as a precautionary measure, to explain what Brown has been told about the incident. Please be assured that no debit or credit card information, bank account information, or social security numbers were impacted.

What Happened

Blackbaud informed us that they discovered and stopped a ransomware attack on May 20th. With the help of independent forensics experts and law enforcement, they were able to determine intruders gained access to their systems starting on February 7th. During the incident, a backup file containing some personal information (NOT including debit card, credit card, bank account, or social security numbers) was stolen. According to Blackbaud, they took steps to make certain the stolen copy of the backup file was permanently destroyed. More information about the incident can be found at

blackbaud.com/securityincident.

What Information Was Involved

As we mentioned above, social security numbers, bank account, credit card, and debit card information were not compromised. We have determined that the compromised file may have contained public demographic data (such as class year information and birth dates).

What Blackbaud and Brown Are Doing

Blackbaud has reported to us that based on the nature of the incident, their research, and third party (including law enforcement) investigation, they do not believe any data went beyond the cybercriminal, was or will be misused, or will be disseminated or otherwise made available publicly.

As part of its ongoing efforts to help prevent something like this from happening in the future, Blackbaud has affirmed that it has already implemented changes to protect its system from any subsequent incidents. They have identified the vulnerability associated with this incident, including the tactics used by the cybercriminal, and taken actions to correct the issue. They have also confirmed through testing by multiple third parties, including the appropriate platform vendors, that their fix withstands all known attack tactics. Additionally, they are accelerating their efforts to further harden their environment through enhancements to access management, network segmentation, and deployment of additional endpoint and network-based platforms.

Brown University remains in regular contact with Blackbaud regarding the details of this incident, and we are continuing to monitor their response.

At this time, we do not feel there is a need for you to take any action. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us at BlackbaudSecurityIncident@brown.edu

Sincerely,

William Thirsk

Chief Digital Officer / Chief Information Officer

Brown University

